Archives

Maryland Agriculture 1945

a Victory Year

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THIRTY-FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

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EXTENSION SERVICE

College Park, Maryland

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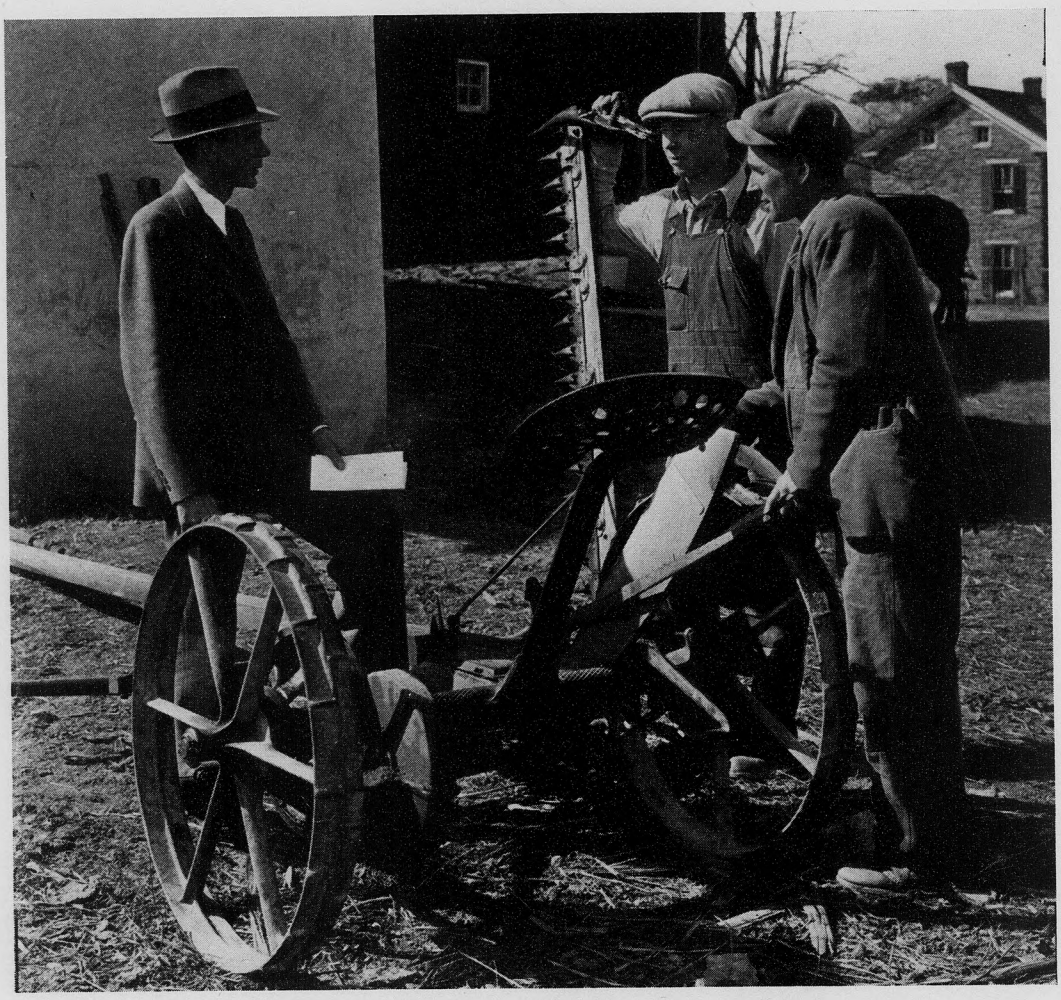


An Extension worker brings information direct to the farm.

FOREWORD

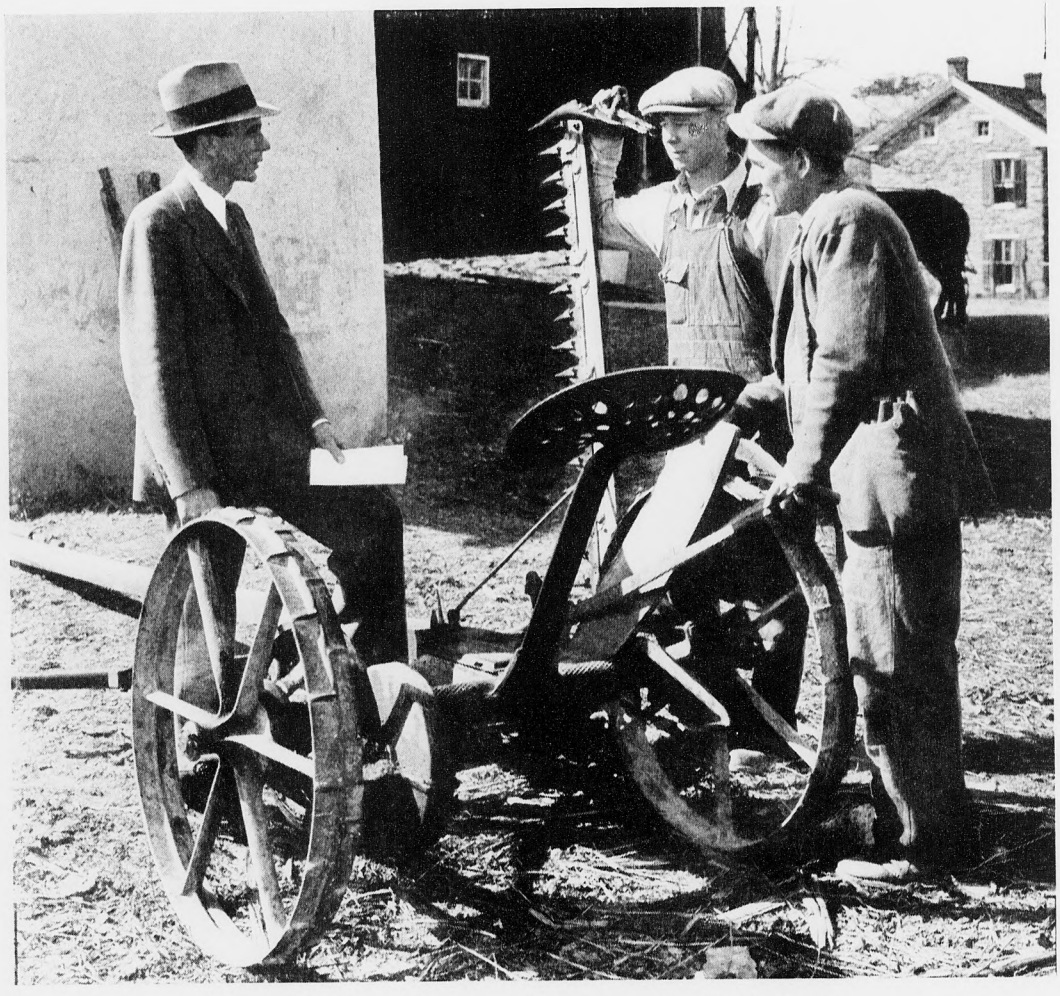
It is by no means an easy task to give an accurate and adequate idea of the varied activities of the Extension Service. Even those who come in direct contact with the workers see only a small segment of the broad program. Those in other walks of life have a very imperfect conception of what it means to the agriculture and rural life of Maryland.

There is a tendency in all reports to mention only what appears to be the major accomplishments—the results that affect the largest number of people or that are most significant in the economy of the State. Perhaps such an approach is necessary, as obviously the innumerable small or individual services cannot be presented in a brief report. We must not forget, however, that often the problem which gives a person or a family greatest concern is largely an individual problem, or one that does not in the same degree affect a large number. Help in solving that problem is often the most valuable and appreciated service that can be given. The fact that the Extension Service reaches into each county and community, and is close to every farm and home with its personal help and information is one of the principal reasons it is recognized as an outstanding organization for education and service.

Based upon the information developed by the Agricultural Experiment Station and the United States Department of Agriculture, seasoned with practical experience of farmers and rural homemakers, the foundation for extension teaching is sound. Added to this, it has the counsel and support of all farm and rural organizations and leaders, so that the effectiveness of the extension workers is magnified many times. The training and development of rural leadership in the State is one of the greatest contributions, both from the standpoint of furthering the aims of extension programs and for the progress and welfare of all the people.

With due recognition of the many and no less important activities that cannot be mentioned, it is the aim in the following pages to give some of the high-lights of extension work in Maryland in 1945.

T. B. SYMONS, *Director.*



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Extension Service extends to the farms and homes. This group is considering methods for prevention and control of diseases in tobacco plant beds.

How Extension Operates

The unsettled conditions of wartime have brought home to the non-farming population the vital importance of an adequate food supply in a way they had never before experienced. So long as they could obtain all they desired of any food product, any place and at any time, there was little reason to give heed to where it came from, or what was involved in providing it in ample supply. It was taken for granted. Rationing and shortages of many food products made people think more of the situation with respect to the production, processing and distribution of food because their daily lives were affected.

That their needs were as well supplied during the last few years is due to the progress that has been made in agriculture. Of course, major credit goes to the actual producers for their efforts. It should be remembered, however, that they were making use of the results which have been obtained from research through the years. New methods have been developed, new and better varieties and strains of crops, and more efficient animals and poultry for turning the coarser products into human food. More effective methods have been found for controlling the insect and disease enemies of plants and animals, so that their toll has been reduced. Farm people have constantly learned to work more closely with the research agencies that have been provided for their aid, and to rely upon them more and more.

The facts and methods developed by research assume their real value, however, only when they become the general practice of the people on the farms and in the homes. The Extension Service is designed to help farm people take full advantage of all the knowledge available that will enable them to improve their standards of living. Through more than thirty years it has been developing and perfecting its methods for doing that job, so that today it has become a definite part of the agricultural system of the State and nation.

It has been said truthfully that rural people now have the latest and most reliable information regarding their business and problems as handy as the telephone in their home. In each Maryland county there is an agricultural agent and a home demonstration agent, and in many counties there are assistant agents. They are not only trained and experienced in the latest and best information, but they are residents of the respective counties, neighbors of those whom they serve, and know their conditions and problems at first hand.

Back of these agents in the counties is a group of specialists. It is the job of each specialist to keep thoroughly informed in his or her particular field and to assist both the agents and the people with problems that arise, as well as help plan programs for development in their respective lines.

That, very briefly, with a small administrative force, is the set-up of the Extension Ser-

vice. Its efficiency and effectiveness have been demonstrated and proved. The extent to which the people of Maryland are utilizing the services of extension workers and to which these workers are reaching the farms and homes of the State will be indicated by facts given in this report.

Objectives Are Broadened

The objectives of the Extension Service were not changed during the war period—they were intensified. It has been and will continue to be the aim of the Service to demonstrate facts, increase incomes, and make more happy homes in Maryland. Extension workers have walked with farmers over their fields, among their flocks, and into their homes. They have conferred with the farmer, his wife and children and discussed matters of great concern to them. They have met with groups of farm people throughout the counties and State and with them planned for better farming, better homemaking, and better standards of living.

The war and aftermath of war has placed upon the Extension Service a responsibility for broader service to rural people. Policies and measures of national and world-wide scope must be decided, and the people on the farms of Maryland and other states should have a voice in such decisions. In order to form intelligent opinions on such questions, they must have unbiased facts and information on these matters affecting their welfare. The Extension Service has a responsibility in providing them with this information and supplying the means for their discussion, so that rural people may intelligently decide the issues.

The policy followed with respect to such issues was to present the facts, both pro and con, so that the people can decide what policy they wish to pursue or advocate. That such a policy and service is appreciated is evident from the interest in and reception given to efforts made thus far. Information has been provided by Extension speakers and otherwise on such topics as the United Nations Charter, the Bretton Woods Proposals, the World Food Organization, atomic power, as well as such national questions as subsidies, full employment, price policies for agricultural products, and others.

While there can be no lessening or abandoning of the services which rural people have become accustomed to depend upon from the Extension Service, development of the broader services, in which only a beginning has been made, must be given major attention in the immediate future.

People Help Plan Their Programs

Two features have been prominent in extension work. The people themselves have had a dominant voice in determining the programs that were to be carried out, and the primary

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Reports show that in 1945 extension programs were planned cooperatively by extension agents and local committees in 593 communities. That is an average of nearly 26 to the county. One of the greatest accomplishments of extension work and one of the greatest tributes to its value as a method for building up the rural life and communities of the State is the extent to which local leadership has been developed and put into action. The reports of extension agents for 1945 show that 6,373 different voluntary local leaders or committeemen were actively engaged in forwarding extension programs with adults and 1,124 with 4-H club and older youth.

From War To Peace

As I have mentioned, the year started in the midst of a tremendous conflict, with every effort being focused upon doing the things that would bring the war to a victorious end most quickly. It had been recognized, however, that when that end came there would be problems of adjustment affecting Maryland agriculture and rural people which would be just as complex and difficult as those of the war period. Leaders in agriculture and rural life, as well as members of the Extension Service, had foreseen the necessity for being as well prepared as possible for absorbing the shock that inevitably would come from changed conditions. Together they studied prospective conditions and problems of the postwar period and set forth a program.

This program embodied the best thinking and judgment of 18 committees, each of which was composed of persons most capable of dealing with the particular phase with which it dealt. A conception of the scope of this program may be obtained from the topics included in it. There were sections on: Economic and Social Problems; Farm Economics, including Farm Labor and Adjustments in Management Practices; Rural Institutions, including Roads, Taxes, Credit and Tenure; Rural Homes; Rural

Youth; Education; Rehabilitation of the Farm Plant and Equipment; Farm Organizations; Federal-State Relations; Marketing Farm Products; Conservation; Farm Crops; Tobacco; Dairy; Livestock; Poultry; Vegetables and Canning Crops; Fruit Crops; Insect and Disease Control.

Like all such programs, the value of this planning for postwar conditions depended in large measure upon the extent to which the information reached the rank and file of those on farms throughout the State. This was another instance in which the farm and rural organizations worked together most effectively. The postwar program was issued in printed form by the Extension Service and became the basis for discussion by Farm Bureau groups, homemakers' clubs, Granges, and various other organizations.

Without question, it was a most effective means for preparing people generally for the shift from war to peace.

Obstacles Were Overcome

Although the year 1945 started as a war year and ended in the period of postwar adjustment, the major problems confronting farmers and homemakers of Maryland were principally the same. In short, they were attempting maximum production under the handicap of numerous shortages. The extent to which they achieved that goal, and how they did it is an inspiring story and one which cannot be adquately written. It is a story of hard work, long hours, ingenuity, determination, careful planning, cooperation, utilization of every resource, and other factors on the part of the thousands of men and women and boys and girls on the farms of Maryland.

Extension workers have supplemented the efforts of rural people and brought to them information which assisted in their planning and operations. The records achieved are the result of united efforts by all forces. They could not have been attained in any other way. They are a lasting tribute to the rural people and extension workers of the State.

The production goals established at the beginning of the year were not substantially different for most crops from those of the preceding year. Slightly less production of a number of crops and products was called for and a material increase was sought only in the case of a few crops, including red clover seed, lima beans for processing, and tobacco.

Along with all the other obstacles Maryland farmers had to contend with in their all-out production efforts, they had less favorable weather than the year before. This condition affected the acreage and yield of nearly all

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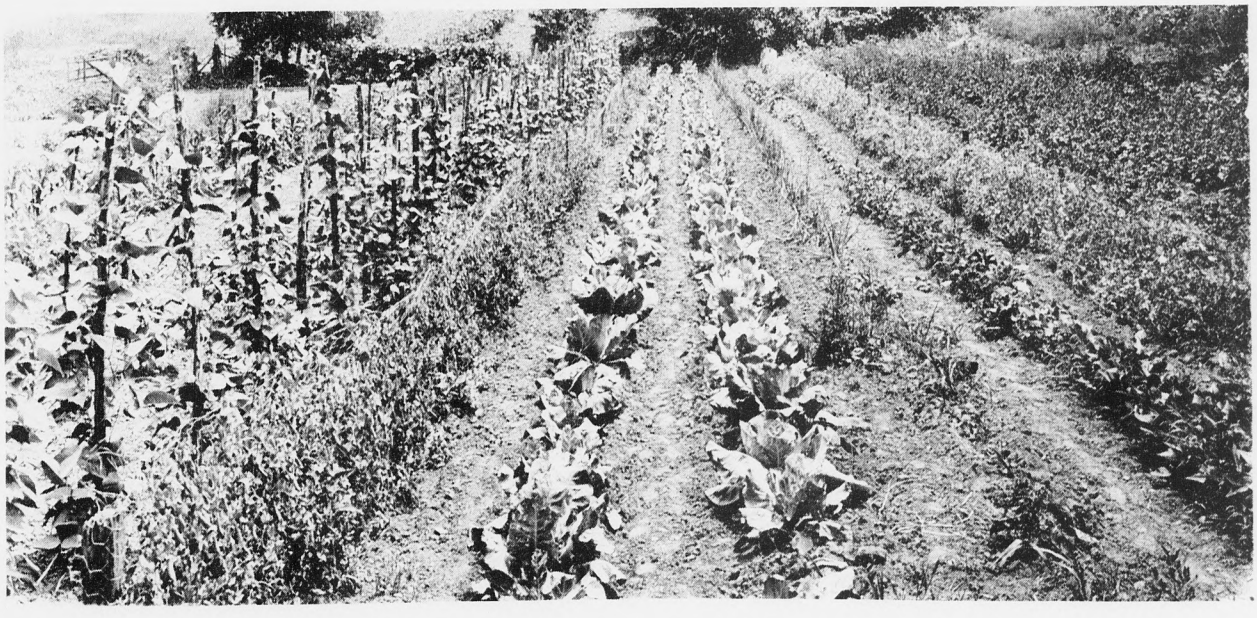

The Extension Service went "all out" to find the number of workers needed to supplement the farmers' own labor force.

crops. Wet weather at planting time cut down the acreage of corn that would have been planted. The yield of 37 bushels per acre, the highest on record for the State, resulted in greater total production than in 1944. A large quantity of hay was lost because of wet weather, but a better than average yield was obtained. Wheat, tobacco, and tomatoes probably suffered greatest reductions because of the wet season.

The commercial apple crop was hit particularly hard. A late spring freeze cut the crop to about 25 percent of normal. Excessive rains interfered with spraying so that coddling moth injury was heavier than usual. The crop of 689,000 bushels is the smallest on record.

The total value of crops harvested in 1945, including truck crops and maple products, is estimated at $87,559,000. That is about 20 percent less than the value of crops harvested in 1944. About one-half of the reduction in value of production as compared with last year, however, is due to the short tobacco crop.

Labor Shortage Was Met

Providing farm labor to produce and harvest Maryland crops continued to be an extremely acute problem. To help farmers maintain top production with the smallest farm labor force in history, the Extension Service went "all out" to find the needed number of workers to supplement the farmers' own labor force. A total of 12,200 emergency workers was recruited from all sources, from which 200,000 placements were made, compared with 165,000 in 1944 and 136,000 in 1943.

The emergency labor force was composed of the following: 4,126 prisoners of war; 2,846 foreign workers; 2,180 migratory workers; 885 boys and girls; and 2,166 miscellaneous. These workers were housed in 33 farm labor camps of the following types: 16 prisoners of war; 9 foreign workers; 4 boys and girls; and 4 migratory workers. In addition, a large number of workers were housed in individual quarters maintained by farmers, in the development and improvement of which considerable assistance was given by extension workers.

For the most part, foreign workers were assigned to producers of fruits and vegetables. Prisoners of war were most helpful in the harvest of hay, grain, corn and tobacco, and in emergencies in fruits and vegetables. Boys and girls harvested truck crops and fruit and detasselled seed corn. The one big unfulfilled need was for experienced dairy farm workers. No replacements could be found for those lost to the armed services and war industries. However,

the 20,000 deferments from the armed services provided the backbone of the force of year-round labor to supplement the members of the farmers' own families.

Although there was an insufficient number, many new types of farm machines played an important part. These included combines, pick-up balers and corn pickers. Full use of available machinery, both on a custom basis and exchange between farmers, was stimulated in addition to an exchange of labor and development of many ingenious labor-saving devices and techniques.

Efficiency on the farm and in the home was emphasized throughout the year. Instruction was given to emergency farm workers and educational efforts stressed job simplification and development of new labor-saving techniques. The eight-point dairy program, quick milking methods, safety and fire prevention, sanitation, insect and disease control, timeliness of all farm operations, and general all-round efficiency in methods of production and marketing were all emphasized. The educational program by all extension workers helped farmers with short cuts in achieving maximum production with minimum supplies of all production facilities.

Anticipating a time when farmers again rely on their own recruitment efforts and obtain through their own efforts their needed labor supply, farm labor associations were organized in every county of important labor need. These were incorporated under the cooperative laws of Maryland. By cooperative effort, camps were organized and many were operated by the associations. In every case, associations contracted for labor and in turn sub-contracted with the users of labor.

Full cooperation was fostered, not only among the farmers themselves but among all agencies interested in the labor problem, including the Extension Service, the Office of Labor of the War Food Administration, the War Manpower Commission, and the Third Service Command of the U. S. Army. By all working closely and harmoniously together, much more was accomplished than could have been done by working separately.

The results of the Emergency Farm Labor Program speak for themselves. All food goals were met or exceeded except in the case of some late crops damaged by unprecedented rains in July. There was less loss of crops due to lack of labor than in normal times. There was an enhancement of the prestige of the Extension Service and increased confidence of farm people in extension workers who serve them, which is of lasting, long-time benefit to the Service.

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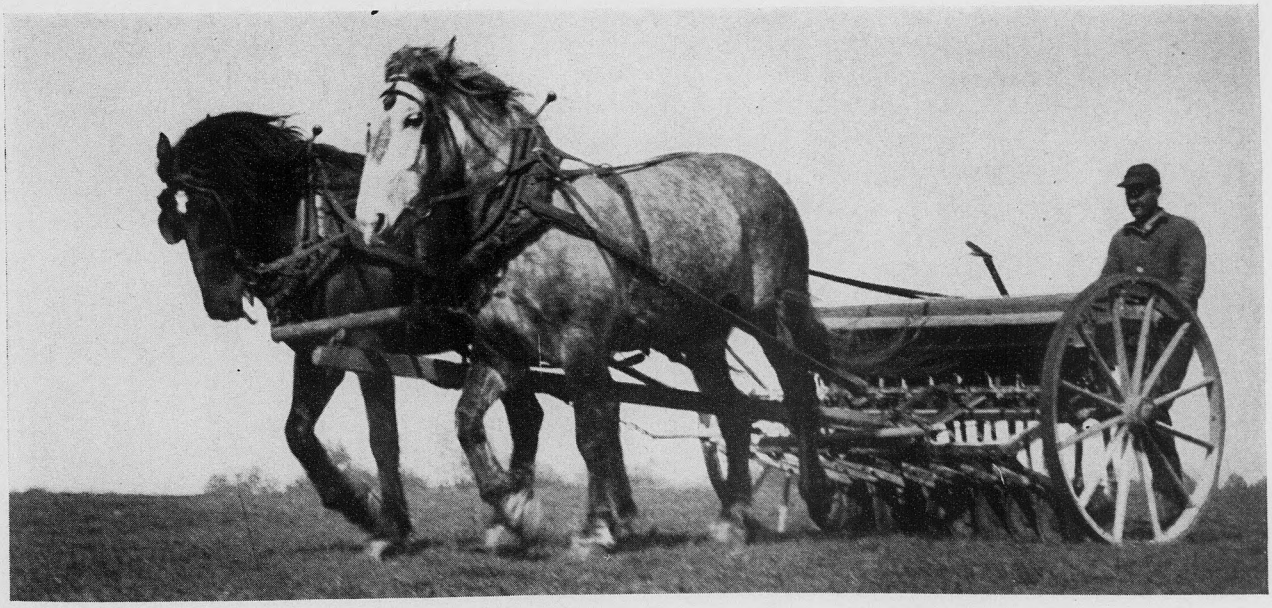

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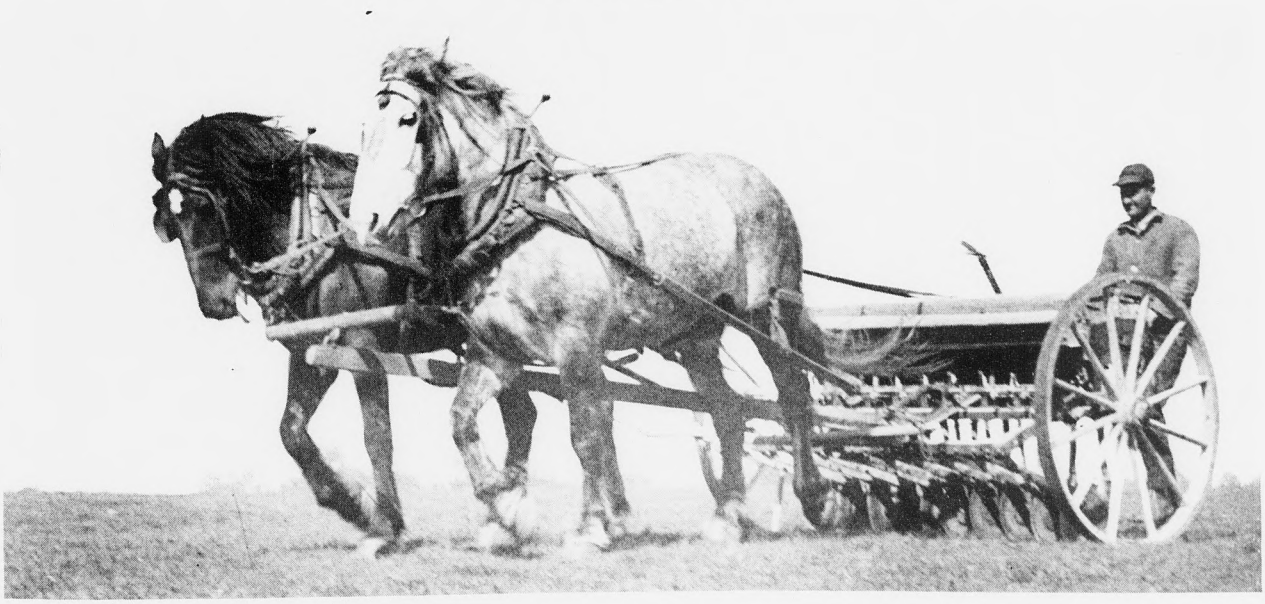

Remarkable progress in soil conservation was made, even under the handicaps of the war period.

Farming For Today and Tomorrow

While obtaining record production from their land, Maryland farmers gave greater attention to conserving their soils than in any similar period in the past. The soil conservation program that was started just prior to the war had become so well established and so much sentiment for conservation had been built up that remarkable progress was made even under the handicaps of the war period.

This work is one of the best examples of the results of effective and wholehearted cooperation between the Federal and State governments, local groups, and individuals. Under the Soil Conservation Districts Law enacted by the Maryland General Assembly in 1937, such cooperation is made possible. The Extension Service, as one of the active agencies in the cooperation, appreciates the splendid spirit of the Soil Conservation Service and the other agencies and groups which have had a part in the program.

Maryland farmers have organized 22 soil conservation districts, covering 21 of the 23 counties. All these districts are in operation. Some are well along with their jobs, others are just getting started. Progress would have been much greater but for the many wartime limitations, but the foundation is laid for outstanding work in conservation in the immediate future. As an evidence of the rate of progress, there were eight districts formed between 1938 and 1941; by 1944, nine others had been organized; five more were formed during 1945-46.

The district supervisors prepare a conservation program and a work plan, which sets forth specific means of getting the job done. In these programs and plans, the educational facilities and experience on general agriculture of the Extension Service is coordinated with the work of the Soil Conservation Service technicians, who help farmers develop conservation plans and install the practices on their lands. The Director of Extension is chairman of the State Soil Conservation Committee, under which the districts are formed.

In sections of the State where drainage is a major soil conservation problem, a good start has been made. Thirteen group drainage projects have been completed, benefiting 19,482 acres of land on 143 farms. Drainage practices include 66 miles of ditches, 44 acres of bank management, and 730 acres cleared.

Through educational work with the schools and youth groups, an understanding and appreciation of the importance of conserving natural resources is being instilled. Non-agricultural groups are taking an active interest and giving their support to conservation programs. A Conservation Forum held in Western Maryland brought together leaders in all phases of conservation in the State. Wide distribution of a digest of the addresses and discussions printed by the Extension Service has provided educational material for schools and organizations.

Crops Were Improved

Anything that assisted farmers to obtain greater returns for the labor, time and materials expended during the past year was of more than usual value because all of these were in short supply. There is scarcely a crop or farm product, nor a problem affecting either crops or products with which extension workers have

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Greater production and more efficient use of home-grown feeds had a large part in meeting the difficult feed situation.

not helped. The corn crop, one of Maryland's major crops, may be cited as an illustration. Assistance was given to 2,243 farmers in obtaining improved varieties and strains; to 3,560 in the use of lime; to 2,912 in the use of fertilizer; to 733 in control of plant diseases; to 5,695 in control of injurious insects; to 511 in control of noxious weeds; and to 529 in control of rodents and other animals. In proportion to their importance, the same sort of assistance was given in connection with wheat and other cereals, legumes, pastures, potatoes and other crops.

Progress With Livestock

Rapid strides have been made in recent years toward establishing Maryland as source of high quality livestock. Both breeders and commercial producers have been active in this development and have profited from it. In making the advancement they have had the active assistance of extension workers. In 1945, assistance was given 398 farmers in obtaining purebred males, including beef cattle, sheep, hogs, and horses; 625 were aided in obtaining purebred or high grade females; 3,068 were assisted in improving feeding methods; 1,302 were aided in controlling external parasites; and 2,586 in controlling internal parasites and diseases.

The feed situation presented many difficult problems. For the seventh year the Extension Service conducted a program designed to bring about greater production and more efficient use of home-grown feeds. The results of this program proved a boon to many farmers and breeders in meeting the conditions experienced during the trying times of scarce and inadequate feeds.

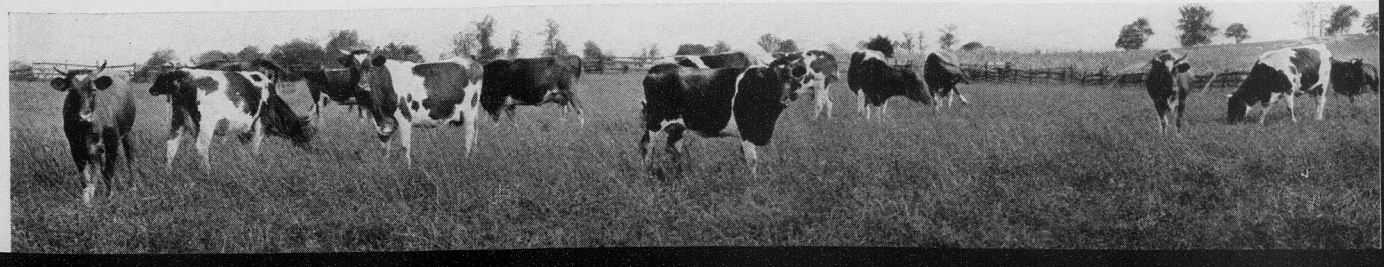
Dairying Moves Forward

One of the most significant steps in the history of Maryland's dairy industry was taken during the year. Interest in breeding dairy cattle by artificial insemination had been growing for several years. A committee had made a survey of its operation, and its advantages and disadvantages in other states and reported to leaders in the dairy industry. Extension workers had a major part in bringing to dairymen unbiased information.

Sentiment was virtually unanimous that if properly organized and operated, artificial insemination would afford Maryland dairymen a means for improving their herds. Accordingly, an appropriation was made by the General Assembly to finance the initial steps in organizing and placing in operation an artificial insemination association to serve the dairymen of the State. In this activity, the Maryland State Fair Board rendered substantial assistance, and the various dairy organizations all cooperated. Extension workers had a prominent part in the educational program and in working out the type of organization which would most effectively serve the purpose, drafting constitution and by-laws, securing articles of incorporation, etc.

At the close of the year the project had advanced to the point that within a few months everything would be in readiness for breeding of cows by artificial insemination.

The need for dairy products continued to be one of the most vital problems and maximum



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Reports of extension agents show that 279 farmers were assisted in obtaining purebred sires; 370 in obtaining purebred or high grade females; 3,091 in improving methods of feeding; 350 in controlling external parasites; and 919 in controlling diseases and internal parasites.

Poultrymen Faced Adjustments

Wartime conditions brought many and difficult problems to Maryland's important poultry industry. It expanded with phenomenal rapidity in response to the call for poultry meat and eggs to take the place of red meats sent abroad for our armed forces and allies. Then, it was forced to retract materially because of limited feed, and limited coal supplies for a time. While the portion of the poultry crop produced on farms was not subject to such difficult problems, the large commercial poultry industry was forced to make substantial adjustments from time to time. In order to make these adjustments intelligently, the latest reliable information was essential. Extension workers were depended upon primarily for such information. Also, they rendered most valuable assistance in helping poultrymen meet the labor, feed, equipment, and other shortages.

Lack of adequate personnel made it particularly difficult to carry forward the systematic poultry improvement program to the extent desired and that would have been possible under ordinary conditions. Nevertheless, commendable progress was made in the testing program and accrediting of flocks in the several stages of improvement.

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Broad Program For Homemakers

What Maryland rural homemakers, with the assistance of the home demonstration agents and specialists of the Extension Service, have accomplished cannot be measured or adequately evaluated. There is no yardstick that registers the full value of their efforts and attitudes. Figures are helpful in measuring the results from some projects, such as the raising of victory gardens, food preservation, the number of water systems installed, general farm and home improvements, etc. There is no way to measure the satisfaction derived from all of these things, or what they have done for better methods in homemaking, better character, better family cooperation, or the general morale of the family. There is no measuring stick for leadership, cultural attainment, or educational progress.

The home demonstration program was planned during the year to meet the immediate needs of the people. It was the aim to help families meet wartime emergencies as they occurred and at the same time place emphasis on food production, better food conservation, nutrition, clothing, home furnishing, and home management problems. With the upset conditions and emotion that prevailed in many homes, recreation and a cultural program were encouraged that would help in family relationships.

Rural women went far beyond the types of effort ordinarily associated with homemaking. In discussion groups, they had an active part in the study of national and world-wide questions. Such broad questions as inflation, deflation, price control, subsidies, and the United Nations Charter claimed their active interest. The Extension Service workers recognized it as their responsibility to provide accurate and

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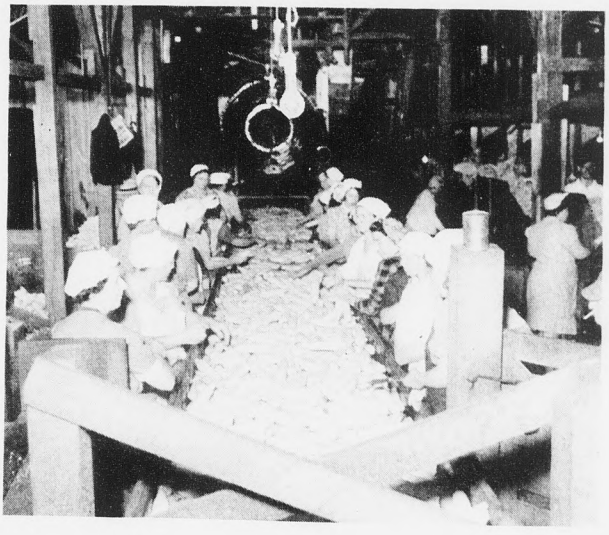

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In addition to all of these things, rural women, some of whom never before did anything in the way of manual labor, went into the fields during harvest time to help meet the labor shortage and save vitally needed crops. They worked in gardens, looked after the poultry, and helped in the dairy.

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Reports that represent less than half of the total show 2,283,348 quarts of fruits and vegetables and 263,908 quarts of meat canned. In addition to the tons of food preserved by brining, drying, curing, and in storage, the quantity frozen is significant. Reports received show more than 300 tons preserved in that way. This is one of the later developments in food preservation and providing information on proper preparation for freezing and other factors essential to success afforded an opportunity for valuable help by extension workers.

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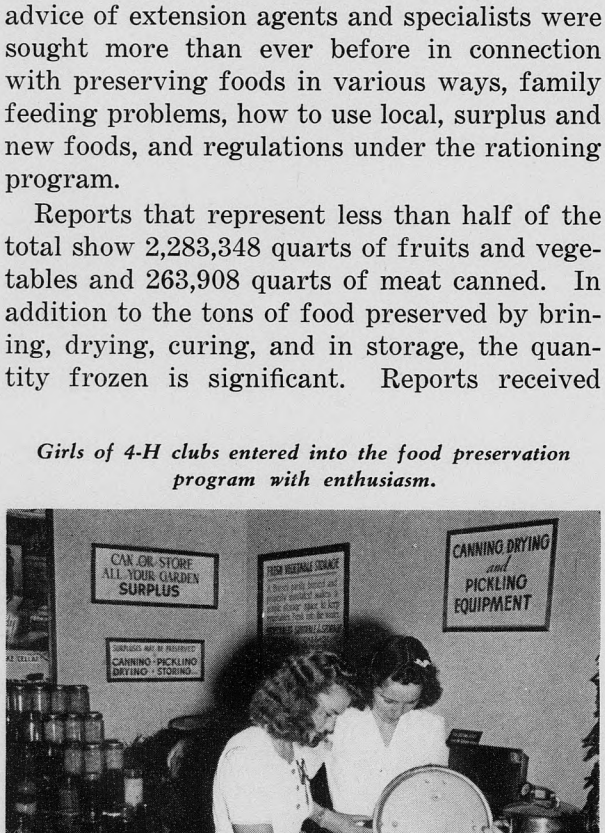


Wartime restrictions, peacetime scarcities and increased cost of clothing were perplexing problems to both rural and urban families. Information regarding means for prolonging usefulness of garments and fabrics on hand, remodeling, and home sewing was in demand. Homemakers were given information on the care, repair, cleaning and storage of clothing, and on the newer fabrics and finishes. Every county has now held one or more clinics for care, repair and adjustment of sewing machines at which 166 women were trained. They have assisted 544 others with care and use of their machines.

Because of conditions with respect to obtaining new furniture and furnishings, there was particular interest in making the things on hand do until more opportune time for replacement. Rural families, however, were very much interested in planning modern houses, looking forward to the time when they could be constructed or obtained by remodeling.

Many families were confronted with adjustments in home management when members of the family left for the armed services or for work in war industries, and again when they returned. Assistance with such adjustments was a part of the home management program of the Extension Service, along with information on money management, new equipment, repair and care of equipment, work simplification, and housing problems.

Boys and Girls Helped and Were Helped

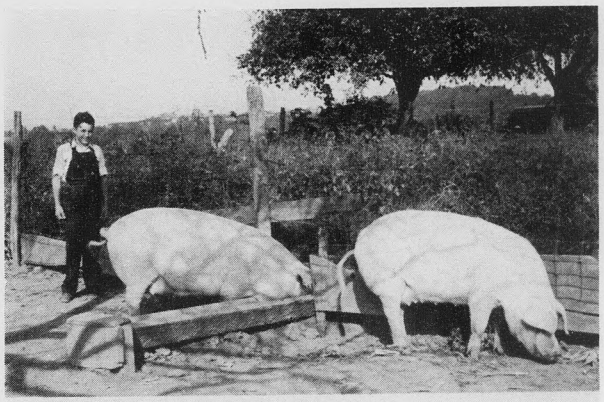
During the period when record production is so important, there is a natural tendency to consider and value accomplishment in terms of that kind. The results of 4-H club work have been outstanding when measured by such tangible standards, but it must be emphasized that by far the greatest value of that work is in the development of those who participate. Their production, which is principally a means to an end, assumed greater importance in wartime and the immediate postwar period, and

was a stimulus to the other attributes. Hence, 4-H club work made distinct progress in 1945, despite many adverse conditions, such as shortage of personnel for leadership, the necessity for boys and girls to assume heavier burdens in connection with farm and home operations, shortages of feed and equipment, and other handicaps. More members were enrolled and the patriotic desire of youth to serve caused many to increase the size of their projects and to carry several food production enterprises as a part of their 4-H club work.

The 12,795 boys and girls enrolled in 4-H club work completed 11,051 projects, or 87 percent. These included 1,283 acres of home gardens and 380 acres of market gardens; 1,968 dairy cattle and 425 beef animals; 3,365 hogs; 122,124 chickens and turkeys; 1,431 acres of corn and 372 acres of other cereals; 534 acres of potatoes; 90,013 meals planned and 117,519 meals served; 150,675 quarts canned; 7,910 garments made and 2,218 remodeled. Since the boys and girls engaged in the particular projects that fitted their needs or appealed to their inclinations, they included a very wide variety and those mentioned are only a few of the most outstanding from the standpoint of size.

Along with their projects connected more directly with farming, home life and rural community life, the boys and girls of 4-H clubs employed their enthusiasm, ingenuity and training in carrying out various war emergency measures. Club members in Maryland were asked to make a special record in one war bond campaign and sold approximately $100,000 worth of bonds. They assisted likewise in drives to collect needed materials.

No report of 4-H club work would be accurate if it failed to give ample credit to the hundreds of local voluntary leaders who gave so generously of their time and effort. The success of a local 4-H club and its members is dependent in large measure upon its leader. Maryland is fortunate in its loyal and capable local leaders. Older youth who have been club members are doing an excellent work in that connection. The number of such persons is increasing constantly and with the return of those who have been in the armed services the outlook is promising for supplying leadership in a growing 4-H club program.



In addition to their 4-H club projects, boys and girls helped with the farm and home tasks.

There Were Enemies To Fight

Anything that destroys, wastes, or reduces the production of farm products is an enemy of the farmers at all times. In times like 1945, it is a public enemy. Insects and diseases are of that nature. Their control and reduction of the damage done by them becomes of greater importance with the increased need for food.

Wartime conditions made many adjustments necessary in methods for controlling insects and diseases. Many of the materials which had been tried and proved most effective could not be obtained, or were in short supply. New materials and substitutes had to be tested and information regarding their proper use conveyed to growers of the several crops. Some especially effective materials were developed and their advantages and disadvantages had to be determined, as well as how to use them demonstrated. Probably there has never been a year when a material for control of insects attracted as much interest and gave as great promise as DDT and some of the other new materials. Farm people were anxious to have the benefit of these effective control agents, and

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extension workers recognized their responsibility in seeing that they were used properly.

The long-time programs against certain insects and diseases, such as Japanese beetles, European corn borer, red stele disease of strawberries, etc., were continued so that the ground gained in previous years would not be lost and further progress would be made.

Development of varieties and strains of certain crops that are more resistant to insect enemies and diseases was continued. A new variety of potato, the "Marygold," was introduced, and a number of varieties of strawberries give promise, in addition to those already being grown widely.

Among the outstanding steps in control of insects in the fruit orchards of Maryland is the establishment during the year of a field station in the principal apple and peach producing section of Western Maryland. An appropriation by the General Assembly made it possible to construct and equip an adequate laboratory and to place an entomologist and horticulturist in that area. They are giving their full time to insect control and other problems of fruit growers.

Trend Toward Power On The Farms

The effect of wartime conditions was to speed the tendency toward use of mechanical power and equipment on the farm and in the home. Lack of materials and labor slowed this tendency. Even under the restrictions, 725 families were assisted in getting electricity, 565 were helped with lighting and home equipment, and 612 were aided in using electricity for income producing purposes. There are approximately 650 farm freezers in Maryland, of various makes or of rigged-up equipment, and 25 locker plants. Demand for information on construction and use of these means for preserving food products increased rapidly.

From the volume of requests received, it would appear that many farm families prepared their postwar building plans in 1945. It is the aim of the Extension Service to supply at nominal cost blue print working drawings for approved designs of farm structures and equipment to anyone who requests. This requires designs that cover almost every conceivable type, style and size of structure. In response to specific requests, 567 farm building plans were sent to 321 persons in 1945.

Better Service For Rural Colored Families

With increased personnel and better organization the extension work with Negroes made greater progress than in any previous year. Appointment of a colored district agent to cor-

relate and supervise the work of the local agents proved very effective. The colored farmers and homemakers, including boys and girls, have always been most responsive to programs for their benefit. They made excellent records in production of food and in the various war measures. Their projects were focused principally upon improvement of standards of living and excellent progress was made.

The work is conducted in the same general manner as with the white population. Extension specialists serve in the same way, and in counties having no colored agents the white agents serve the colored population. The results obtained by colored farmers are included in the discussion of general results in this report.

All Worked Together

With the many agencies and organizations that are carrying on programs affecting agriculture and rural life, cooperation is essential. The Extension Service is fundamentally an educational agency and is therefore able to give effective cooperation in all programs for the benefit of rural people. The results achieved are an evidence of the success with which it has worked with rural people by groups and as individuals. In addition to the AAA, Soil Conservation Service, Farm Credit and Farm Security Administrations, it has cooperated with all farm and home organizations, both state-wide and local, including the Farm Bureau, Grange, Homemakers' Clubs and the commodity and breed associations.

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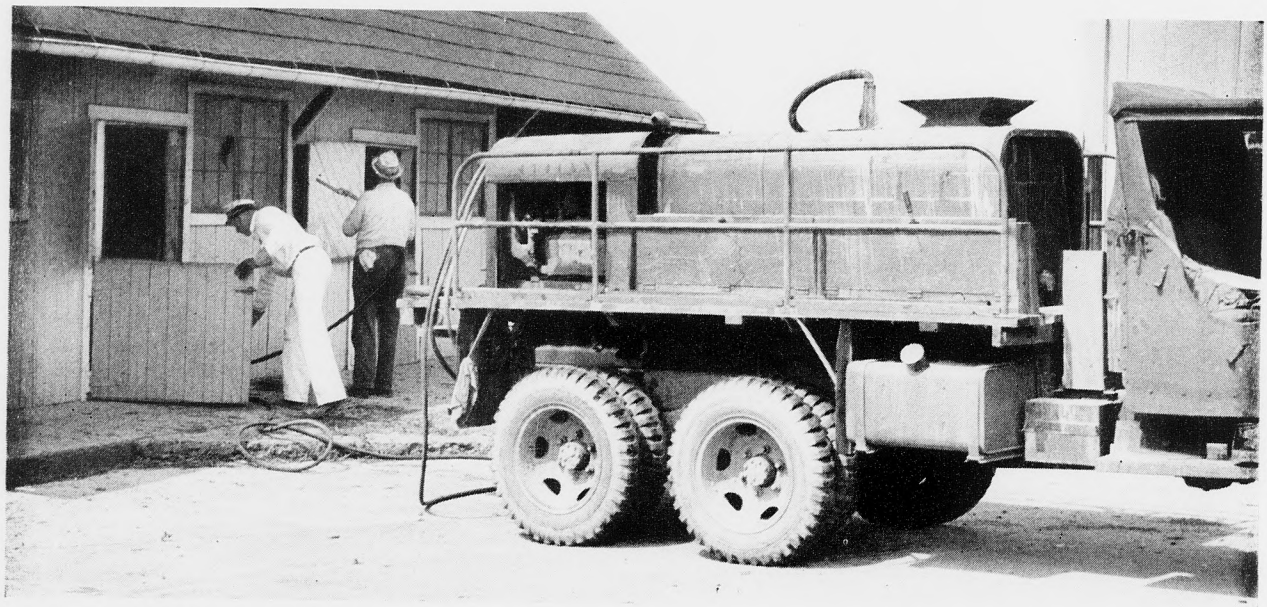
Crop Yields and Values

Following are the acreages, yields and values of livestock and poultry, as reported in preliminary estimates by the Maryland Crop Reporting Service. It should be noted that the figures given are of necessity preliminary in a number of cases and subject to adjustment as later information is obtained. This is particularly true of the tobacco crop, since Maryland tobacco grown in 1945 is not marketed until 1946.

The colored farmers and homemakers, including boys and girls, were very responsive to the extension program. They made an excellent record in production of food and in the various wartime measures.



Some especially effective materials for control of insects and diseases were developed. Their advantages and disadvantages had to be determined and their use demonstrated. Farmers in a number of counties arranged for spraying barns periodically with DDT, and greatly reduced annoyance by flies.

extension workers recognized their responsibility in seeing that they were used properly.

The long-time programs against certain insects and diseases, such as Japanese beetles, European corn borer, red stele disease of strawberries, etc., were continued so that the ground gained in previous years would not be lost and further progress would be made.

Development of varieties and strains of certain crops that are more resistant to insect enemies and diseases was continued. A new variety of potato, the "Marygold," was introduced, and a number of varieties of strawberries give promise, in addition to those already being grown widely.

Among the outstanding steps in control of insects in the fruit orchards of Maryland is the establishment during the year of a field station in the principal apple and peach producing section of Western Maryland. An appropriation by the General Assembly made it possible to construct and equip an adequate laboratory and to place an entomologist and horticulturist in that area. They are giving their full time to insect control and other problems of fruit growers.

Trend Toward Power On The Farms

The effect of wartime conditions was to speed the tendency toward use of mechanical power and equipment on the farm and in the home. Lack of materials and labor slowed this tendency. Even under the restrictions, 725 families were assisted in getting electricity, 565 were helped with lighting and home equipment, and 612 were aided in using electricity for income producing purposes. There are approximately 650 farm freezers in Maryland, of various makes or of rigged-up equipment, and 25 locker plants. Demand for information on construction and use of these means for preserving food products increased rapidly.

From the volume of requests received, it would appear that many farm families prepared their postwar building plans in 1945. It is the aim of the Extension Service to supply at nominal cost blue print working drawings for approved designs of farm structures and equipment to anyone who requests. This requires designs that cover almost every conceivable type, style and size of structure. In response to specific requests, 567 farm building plans were sent to 321 persons in 1945.

Better Service For Rural Colored Families

With increased personnel and better organization the extension work with Negroes made greater progress than in any previous year. Appointment of a colored district agent to cor-

relate and supervise the work of the local agents proved very effective. The colored farmers and homemakers, including boys and girls, have always been most responsive to programs for their benefit. They made excellent records in production of food and in the various war measures. Their projects were focused principally upon improvement of standards of living and excellent progress was made.

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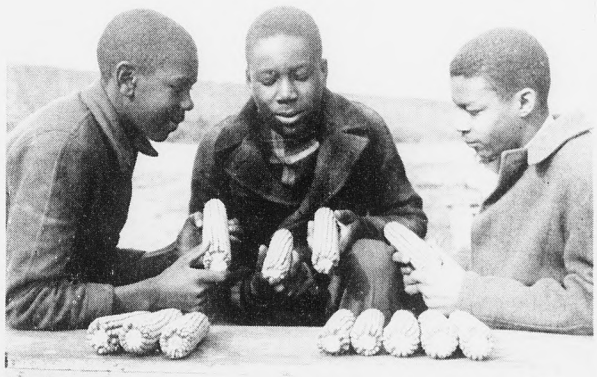

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PRODUCTION AND VALUE OF CROPS

Crop and Year	Acres	Per Acre	Total	Unit	Per Unit	Tolta Value	Value Per Acre
Corn							
1945	456,000	37.0	$16,872,000	Bus.	$1.23	$20,753,000	$45.51
1944	490,000	35.0	17,150,000	"	1.25	21,438,000	43.75
1943	454,000	26.0	16,344,000	"	1.29	15,227,000	33.54
Wheat							
1945	371,000	18.5	6,864,000	"	1.64	11,257,000	30.34
1944	379,000	23.5	8,906,000	"	1.53	13,626,000	35.95
1943	289,000	17.0	4,913,000	"	1.55	7,615,000	26.35
Oats							
1945	32,000	30.0	960,000	"	.85	816,000	25.50
1944	39,000	30.0	1,170,000	"	.90	1,053,000	26.75
1943	43,000	24.0	1,032,000	"	.88	908,000	21.10
Barley							
1945	65,000	29.5	1,918,000	"	1.15	2,206,000	34.00
1944	69,000	31.5	2,174,000	"	1.23	2,674,000	38.75
1943	76,000	23.0	1,748,000	"	1.10	1,923,000	25.30
Potatoes							
1945	19,700	107.0	2,108,000	"	1.70	3,584,000	181.93
1944	20,500	89.0	1,824,000	"	1.86	3,393,000	165.51
1943	22,500	88.0	1,980,000	"	1.49	2,950,000	131.11
Sweet Potatoes							
1945	7,000	140.0	980,000	"	1.85	1,813,000	259.00
1944	8,000	160.0	1,280,000	"	1.74	2,227,000	278.38
1943	8,000	120.0	960,000	"	2.23	2,141,000	270.12
Hay (All Tame)							
1945	435,000	1.35	588,000	Tons	21.20	12,466,000	28.66
1944	423,000	1.15	486,000	"	25.00	12,150,000	28.72
1943	441,000	1.26	556,000	"	23.10	12,844,000	29.12
Tobacco							
1945	36,000	600.0	21,600,000	Lbs.	.55	11,880,000	330.00
1944	45,000	850.0	38,250,000	"	.555	21,229,000	471.77
1943	35,300	590.0	20,827,000	"	.453	9,435,000	267.25
Apples (Comm'l Crop)							
1945	.....	....	689,000	Bus.	2.90	1,998,000	....
1944	.....	....	1,863,000	"	2.13	3,943,000	....
1943	.....	....	864,000	"	2.33	2,013,000	....
Peaches							
1945	.....	....	312,000	"	3.50	1,092,000	....
1944	.....	....	602,000	"	2.30	1,385,000	....
1943	.....	....	221,000	"	4.20	928,000	....
Tomatoes (For Mfg.)							
1945	45,800	2.6	119,100	Tons	32.20	3,835,000	83.07
1944	64,700	5.1	330,000	"	31.40	10,362,000	160.15
1943	72,200	4.4	317,700	"	30.50	9,690,000	134.21
Sweet Corn (For Mfg.)							
1945	41,400	2.3	95,200	"	20.20	1,923,000	46.45
1944	42,500	1.7	72,200	"	19.60	1,415,000	33.30
1943	48,200	1.2	57,800	"	19.40	1,121,000	23.26
Strawberries							
1945	2,500	40	100,000	Crates	9.00	900,000	360.00
1944	2,800	50	140,000	"	7.80	1,092,000	390.00
1943	4,000	50	200,000	"	5.50	1,100,000	275.00
Snap Beans (For Mfg.)							
1945	12,000	1.4	16,800	Tons	104.10	1,749,000	145.75
1944	13,000	1.2	15,600	"	97.60	1,523,000	117.16
1943	12,600	1.3	16,400	"	105.00	1,722,000	136.67
Green Peas (For Mfg.)							
1945	12,000	2470 lbs.	14,820	"	91.60	1,358,000	113.17
1944	11,900	1430 lbs.	10,650	"	91.60	976,000	82.01
1943	15,900	1650 lbs.	13,120	"	90.70	1,190,000	74.84

LIVESTOCK ON FARMS

January 1, 1946

	Number	Value per Head	Total Value
Horses	63,000	$ 87.00	$ 5,478,000
Mules	17,000	111.00	1,887,000
Milk Cows	222,000	134.00	29,748,000
Other Cattle	151,000	61.65	9,310,000
Sheep	49,000	11.00	545,000
Hogs	218,000	17.40	3,793,000
Chickens	4,344,000	1.37	5,951,000
Turkeys	78,000	6.90	538,000

SUMMARY OF WORK IN THE COUNTIES

Number of farms in State (1945 census)	41,950
Farm and home visits made in conducting the work	27,416
Number of different farms or homes visited	13,925
Office calls relating to extension work	78,857
Telephone calls	112,109
Number of articles published	5,943
Number of bulletins distributed	80,594
Training meetings held for local leaders	683
Attendance at these meetings	6,320
Method demonstration meetings held	7,726
Attendance at these meetings	134,685
Tours conducted	146
Attendance on tours	3,066
Achievement days held	264
Attendance at achievement days	29,318
Other meetings participated in by Extension Agents	5,298
Attendance at these meetings	215,487
Meetings held by local leaders	3,094
Attendance at these meetings	55,169
Farms on which changes in practices resulted	24,836
Farms reached this year for first time	4,534
Farm homes in which changes in practices resulted	13,374
Farm homes reached this year for first time	3,111
Number of other homes in which changes in practices resulted	6,020
Number of other homes reached this year for first time	1,991
Number of 4-H club members enrolled	12,795
Number of projects completed by 4-H club members	30,878
Number of families influenced by extension program	53,131

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Both the older and younger members of farm families helped meet the labor shortage.

Cooperative Extension Work in Agriculture and Home Economics,
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